

## **TREATMENT TRENDS**

Admissions to Division of Alcohol and Drug Abuse programs for substance abuse and addiction treatment totaled 38,266 in fiscal year 2003, a decrease from the 39,021 admissions in fiscal year 2002 and the peak 39,912 admissions in fiscal year 2001 [26].

Despite the overall reductions, admissions for women continued to climb, increasing from 11,960 in fiscal year 2002 to 12,100 in fiscal year 2003. The number of treatment admissions for pregnant women increased from 356 in fiscal year 2002 to 369 in fiscal year 2003 and represented an unduplicated count of 305 women. A total of 85 babies were born to women in the CSTAR programs for women and children, and 76 were documented to be healthy and drug-free at birth.

While treatment admissions for Caucasians, African Americans, and Native Americans/Alaskans declined in fiscal year 2003, record-high numbers of treatment admissions were recorded for Hispanics—283—and Asians/Pacific Islanders—72. Treatment clients averaged 33.5 years of age, and almost 29 percent were 30-39 years old.

Individuals who were employed when entering treatment accounted for only 30 percent of all admissions, while 18 percent were unemployed and 52 percent were not seeking employment. For the fourth consecutive year, at least 20,000 treatment admissions were by individuals who were not in the labor force.

Admissions among clients with three or more arrests within the last two years continued to climb, reaching 16,938 in fiscal year 2003 and 44 percent of all treatment admissions. In fiscal year 2003, criminal justice referrals accounted for 15,833 treatment admissions. Clients who did not identify an external referral source—and those encouraged to seek treatment by family or friends—accounted for 12,277 admissions. Mental health providers were the origin of 5,155 treatment referrals and healthcare providers were the source of 1,026. Referrals from schools more than doubled—from 93 in fiscal year 2002 to 193 in fiscal year 2003.

Admissions for injection drug users totaled 3,299 in fiscal year 2003, a slight decrease from the 3,380 admissions in fiscal year 2002. Over 35 percent injected drugs daily, yet almost one-half reported injecting drugs less than once per week.

Alcohol continued to lead treatment admissions, accounting for 15,470 in fiscal year 2003 for primary drug of abuse. Marijuana admissions remained second with 9,726 and cocaine was third with 6,593. Total cocaine admissions increased, yet admissions for crack decreased slightly. Methamphetamine admissions ranked fourth with 3,607, a five percent increase from fiscal year 2002. Heroin remained the fifth most frequently mentioned primary drug of abuse with 1,362 admissions, a decrease from the 1,536 admissions recorded in fiscal year 2002. But admissions for other narcotics and analgesics increased from 498 in fiscal year 2002 to 590 in fiscal year 2003. Treatment admissions for phencyclidine (PCP) increased sharply from 218 in fiscal year 2002 to 314 in fiscal year 2003. Treatment admissions for other illicit drugs, prescription medications, and over-the-counter medications increased from 114 in fiscal year 2002 to 138 in fiscal year 2003.